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Motor vehicles tax.

*198 Q.—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state what the total amount of revenue derived by the Madras Government from the Malabar district by way of motor vehicles tax was in the year 1951–52?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The amount of motor vehicles tax collected in Malabar district during 1951–52 was Rs. 26,64,566–2–0."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to say how many motor vehicles are debarred from running consequent upon non-payment of taxes? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like the hon. Member to give notice of a separate question."

Reconstruction of Salur-Bobbilli Railway line.

*201 Q.—SRI K. VENKATANARAYANA DORA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether he made any statement on 31st May 1952 that the reconstruction of Salur-Bobbilli railway will be taken up in 1952–53?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Yes, if a private letter to the hon. Member can be taken as a statement."

SRI K. VENKATANARAYANA DORA :—" ఈ సంవత్సరమైన బొబ్బిలి—సాలూరు రైను వచ్చేటట్టు ప్రయత్నం జరుగుతున్నదా ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I wrote to the hon. Member stating that there was every possibility of the work of restoration of the Salur-Bobbilli line being commenced in the year 1952–53."

Amount spent on Well Subsidy Scheme.

*230 Q.—SRI M. MUNI REDDI : Will the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state the amount spent so far on the Well Subsidy Scheme, the number of wells completed and wells uncompleted, the extent of land brought under cultivation under the scheme and the total increased tonnage of foodgrains due therefrom?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The total amount spent under the various well subsidy schemes was Rs. 8,32,81,601. The number of wells completed up to May 1952 under the several well subsidy schemes was 1,25,365. The number of incomplete wells (including wells not started) was 82,428. The total extent brought under irrigation under the well subsidy schemes up to May 1952 was 148,447·66 acres and the total increase of foodgrains up to May 1952 was 73,463·05 tons."

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SRI P. M. MUNUSWAMY GOWNDER :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government have collected the amounts given by way of well subsidy from agriculturists who failed to complete their wells in time and, if so, how many of them have returned the amount and what was the reason for their not completing the wells? Will the Government also see the reasons behind the non-completion of the sinking of wells and grant the agriculturists sufficient extension of time? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" As many as have been able to pay have paid and those that have not been able to pay have applied for extension of time to pay and the Government are considering the question."

SRI S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Are the Government aware that the wells dug with the subsidy do not yield sufficient water as they are not dug deep and so will the Government increase the subsidy so as to enable the agriculturists to put up bore wells instead of the ordinary wells and get more water? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The wells put up with the subsidy taken from the Government are different from bore wells. All the same I will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member."

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" మీరు యిప్పుడు యీ బావుల subsidy యివ్వడం ఆపివేశారా ? ఆపివేశియుంటే ఎందువల్ల ఆపి వేశారు ? లేక ఇంకా subsidy యిస్తూవుంటే ఏ ఏ జిల్లాలలో యిస్తున్నారు ? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" The hon. Member is asking if the subsidy has been stopped and if not, in which districts it is being continued now."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I want notice to that question."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" In view of the great utility of this nice scheme, will the Hon. Minister take up this matter with the Central Government to get a grant from them in order to continue to work the scheme in the State? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, the suggestion seems to be good."

SRI K. V. VEMA REDDY :—" In view of the fact that the scheme has benefited the poor and the needy agriculturists of the undeveloped and famine-stricken districts of the State, will the Government consider the proposal of continuing the scheme? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir, it is under consideration."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that in almost all cases the subsidy given to ryots for sinking wells is a tantalisingly negligible fraction when compared with the actual amount invested in the sinking of the wells, with the

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result that the villagers are tempted to use the money otherwise, which results in the Government penalising them for not sinking the wells properly, and will the Government see that suitable subsidy is given to the agriculturists with reference to the actual cost of sinking the wells? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A similar question was put by Mr. Ramasamy Padayachi but if the Hon. Minister is prepared to answer the question, I have no objection."

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Nobody compels the applicant to proceed with the work, if he finds it unremunerative."

SRI V. RAMA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, in proportion to the amount of money spent over this scheme, whether the Government think that the results obtained have been satisfactory? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Generally, satisfactory results have been obtained but in some cases good results may not be got."

Starvation deaths in Chittoor and Anantapur districts.

* 232-A *Q.*—SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any information about the starvation deaths that have occurred in Chittoor and Anantapur districts during the last two months; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government will get reports from the concerned district officials regarding starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of Chittoor district and Kadiri taluk in Anantapur district?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No reports of starvation deaths have been received from Anantapur district. However, during the recent tour of the Chief Minister in Chittoor district, an allegation was made to him that there were 23 cases of starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of the district.

" (*b*) The Collector of Chittoor has enquired into the allegations of starvation deaths in Penumoor firka of Chittoor district and found them to be false. A report will be called for from the Collector of Anantapur in respect of the allegation relating to Kadiri taluk."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" In view of the fact that people in these villages, where famine deaths have occurred, have given statements to that effect to me, and in view of the fact that a large number of statements have also appeared in the Press, will the Government take the statement of the villagers as the starting point and conduct an enquiry into the question of malnutrition obtaining in the districts of Anantapur and Chittoor? "